

What is claimed is:

[1]

A gas generator comprising: a metal housing having an initiator shell and a closure shell, a combustion chamber which is formed inside the housing and into which gas generants generating a high-temperature gas through combustion are loaded, a filter member disposed around the combustion chamber, an igniter loaded into the housing and igniting and burning the gas generants inside the combustion chamber and a plurality of gas discharge openings formed in the housing and discharging the gas generated in the combustion chamber,

wherein either or both of the initiator shell and the closure shell constituting the housing have semi-spherical or semi-oval end plate portions and cylindrical portions having a diameter D formed continuously from these end plate portions, H/D or a ratio of H , a housing distance between an end plate portion of the initiator shell and that of the closure shell to D , an outer diameter of the cylindrical portions is in the range from 0.4 to 1.3, the igniter is mounted inside the housing and provided with an inner cylindrical body having a plurality of enhancer openings and also a bottom portion, enhancers loaded into the inner cylindrical body and a squib mounted so as to be in contact with the enhancers inside the inner cylindrical

body, and d/D which is a ratio of d , an outer diameter of the inner cylindrical body to D , an outer diameter of the end plate portions is in the range from 0.1 to 0.5.

[2]

A gas generator according to Claim 1, wherein h/H , which is a ratio of h , a length of the inner cylindrical body, to H , a length of the housing in the direction of elongation of the inner cylindrical body, is the range from 0.5 to 0.95.

[3]

A gas generator according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of enhancer openings are available in any shape such as a circle, oval, long hole, rectangle, rhomboid or trapezoid.

[4]

A gas generator according to Claim 1, wherein the number of enhancer openings is 4 or more.

[5]

A gas generator according to Claim 1, wherein SA/SE , which is a ratio of SA , a total opening area of a plurality of enhancer openings, to SE , a surface area of the inner cylindrical body, is in the range from 0.01 to 0.4.

[6]

A gas generator according to Claim 1, wherein SA/SD , which is a ratio of SA , a total opening area of a plurality of enhancer

openings, to SD, a total opening area of a plurality of gas discharge openings, is in the range from 0.15 to 4.5.

[7]

A gas generator according to Claim 1, wherein WG/WE which is a ratio of WG, a loaded quantity of the gas generants, to WE, a loaded quantity of enhancers, is in the range from 10 to 60.